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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Syria/Hiddle East

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT

Statements of General Husni Za'im to Lebanese Prime Minister Sulh NO. OF PAGES

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. In the course of a meeting on 24 April 1949 between General Husni Za'in and Lebanese Prime Hinister Riyad Sulh, Za'im stated that he was opposed to both the Fertile Crescent and Greater Syria plans and hoped to align Syria with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon. Za'im stated that he no longer feared Trad, because Egypt, France, and the United States had promised him planes, arms, and tanks, with France as the main source of supply. However, Za'im did qualify this statement by saying that, in obtaining help from the United States, he would use the Tapline agreement as a bargaining point to procure arms.
- 2. During this meeting, Za'im's remarks were hostile to Great Britain, which he suspects of being behind the Hashimite intrigues against Syria.
- 3. Riyad Sulh confirmed the above remarks to source and said that Za'im's attitude was dangerously irresponsible. Sulh told source that Za'im talked of sending troops to the Iraqi border and even of relaxing restrictions against the Communists in Syria, if Great Britain continued to support the Hashimite Kingdoms against him.
- However, source states that, when reasoned with, Za'im calmed down and requested that Sulh try to improve Iraqi-Syrian relations during Sulh's forthcoming visit to Baghdad.
- 5. Sulh again emphasized to source that the French were General Zaim's main supporters.

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